

APR 11 2000

**MONTANA FARMERS UNION**

Art Loendorf, President

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March 17 2000  
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Attn: John Day Drawdown Study

I am writing to you to address the concerns that Montana Farmers Union has about the removal of the four dams on the Snake River.

The number one concern we have in Montana is the loss of barge transportation to the coast. The Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association has estimated that an additional 700,000 semi trucks would be needed to replace the loss of barge transportation at a cost increase of \$6.00 per ton. This does not even account for the added wear and tear of the roads that will result from the added traffic.

Our second concern is the loss of electric generation from the four dams. A loss of 1,231 megawatts of electricity is enormous especially when you figure in the BPA prediction of a 25% shortage in five years. And an increase of rates to all consumers is a no win situation for the public and the taxpayers.

These items plus the loss of irrigation water and the release of all the silt that has been deposited behind the dams over the years add up to a major blow to the livelihood of producers from three states.

From what I have been reading the decline of the salmon has more to do with the changes in the Pacific Ocean than the result of the dams.

I would urge everyone to weigh the pros and the cons of this issue and its lasting effects on the Northwest.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



Art Loendorf  
President